

PATENT

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A towed raft has a generally U-shaped floating frame and a spine and rib assembly that substantially define a receiving area configured to receive a marine vessel substantially through an open end of the floating frame. At least one lifting device is mounted to said spine. The floating frame comprises a pair of floats connected by a cross brace at the forward end. The assembly comprises a spine spaced upwardly from the frame and generally longitudinally aligned with the receiving area, and a plurality of ribs extending generally outwardly and downwardly from the spine to connect the spine with the frame. The towed raft may be used for transport, launch or recovery of a marine vessel such as a swimmer delivery vehicle (SDV).

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